

Little Spark After Len's Fire

Barking 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1

A BLAZE at his home kept Wycombe winger Len Worley out of the side on Saturday. But the rest of the side could produce little fire, and their flame was half-extinguished in the second-half when Barking knocked off Wanderers one-goal lead. Wycombe never produced the shooting power which has rocketed them to the top of the Isthmian scoring table, and it was lowly-placed Barking who dominated for long periods.

Peter Eyres came in at left-back and Peter Roystone moved into the middle in the shuffled 3-4-4 system which never looked a winner.

Wanderers dominated the early periods with some clever midfield work, but then relaxed and the home side began to look more threatening.

As Barking opened up with some fierce shooting, Rundle and Maskell relieved two dangerous moves within the space of a few minutes.

Maskell coolly saved a rising drive from wing-half Evans, and Rundle luckily anticipated a dangerous run by Green whose ground shot was diverted from goal by the quick thinking pivot.

In the visiting front line, Paul Bates, a man with Olympian energy, was always trying to mould the attack into action. Merrick played a fair game on the left wing.

Keith Samuels, another hard worker, supported well and it was the inside-right who put his side ahead in the 34th minute.

PRACTICED

It sprang from a move which has been polished to precision in practice matches. From Bates' inswinging corner Samuels rose high above the home defence to deftly nod the ball home. Within seconds Horseman had White diving full length for a ground shot.

Barking were still shooting hard and often but Wycombe's capable defence, marshalled coolly by

Rundle, just would not budge.

The soccer switched from end to end after the interval. Wycombe still failed to switch on the power and most of the shooting stemmed from long range drives by their half-backs.

Finally, Barking broke through the Wycombe wall in the 73rd minute. And it took a determined defence splitting run from centre-half Cannon to piece it and steal a point.

Cannon, who should have been thwarted by more dogged tackling from the several defenders he met on his way to goal, barged through the middle and cracked a spectacular shot past Maskell.

Barking—White: James, Robertson; Evans, Cannon, Moore; Page, Fox, Greene, Craddock, Rabineau.

Wycombe—Maskell: Beck, Eyres; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Roystone, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Barking 1 Wycombe W 1

WYCOMBE, THE Isthmian League's leading scorers, looked set for a comfortable victory after going ahead with a deft Samuels goal in the 34th minute. But a defensive slip after 73 minutes let Micky Cannon in to grab the equaliser.

The Buckinghamshire side, without star winger Worley, were forced to change tactics but never really showed the shooting power which has brought them 66 goals this season.